

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2330

UNCLAS GENEVA 2862

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES MCC.)

SUBJ: SENATOR MATHIAS' SPEECH

SENATOR CHARLES MATHIAS REQUESTS THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE
BE PASSED TO THIS OFFICE. THIS IS TEXT OF STATEMENT
THE SENATOR MADE TO PRESS IN GENEVA AFTERNOON APRIL 23.

QUOTE:

IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO GIVE EFFECT TO ITS EXPRES-
SIONS OF CONCERN OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE VICTIMS OF
WAR IN INDOCHINA, IT MUST SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO DELIVER HELP. IT MUST
ASSIST THESE INSTITUTIONS AND NOT CREATE PROBLEMS
FOR THEM. SPECIFICALLY, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD
REVERSE ITS POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO MEMBERSHIP OF
THE PRG IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE WHO WE HAVE PLEDGED TO HELP ARE NOW UNDER
THE AUTHORITY OR INFLUENCE OF THE PRG AND IT IS
DECEIVING NO ONE BUT OURSELVES TO MAKE THEM SUFFER FOR
OUR OBSOLETE POLICY AND POSITION.

I HAVE MET IN GENEVA WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION FOR A FIRST-HAND
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BRIEFING ON THEIR CURRENT PROGRAMS IN VIETNAM AND

CAMBODIA.

IN THE COURSE OF THESE BRIEFINGS, THEY HAVE MADE IT UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR TO ME, ONCE AGAIN, THAT THEIR AGENCIES STAND READY AND WILLING TO PROVIDE DESPERATELY NEEDED FOOD, MEDICINE AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF WAR THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA.

WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER APPEARED BEFORE THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE LAST WEEK, I URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES TAKE THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN INDOCHINA, AND I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS SINCE DECIDED TO CONTRIBUTE \$5 MILLION IN RESPONSE TO THE ICRC'S APPEAL. THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY A FIRST STEP, HOWEVER. FAR MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE, IF EITHER THE ICRC OR THE UN ARE TO BE ABLE TO MEET EVEN A FRACTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN THAT WAR-TORN PART OF THE WORLD. A NUMBER OF MEASURES NOW BEFORE THE US CONGRESS WOULD PROVIDE \$100 MILLION OR MORE FOR THIS PURPOSE, SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED FOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES; I AM CONVINCED THAT SUCH LEGISLATION SHOULD BE SPEEDILY ENACTED.

IN THE MEANTIME, I AM HOPEFUL THAT EVEN WITHOUT SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKING, OUR GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOCATE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF WHATEVER INDOCHINA HUMANITARIAN AID THE CONGRESS PROVIDES, TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORKS OF THESE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

I HAVE FREQUENTLY STATED MY CONVICTION THAT WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO WRITE OFF ANY HUMAN BEING IN NEED, MERELY BECAUSE THE TIDE OF BATTLE HAS SWEEPED OVER HIM. DECADES OF WARFARE THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA HAVE LEFT MILLIONS OF VICTIMS IN ITS WAKE, MANY OF WHOM ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED TODAY, REGARDLESS OF THE SHIFTS IN THE LINES OF BATTLE.

THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION CLEARLY REPRESENT

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THE BEST HOPE FOR PROVIDING THIS HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO ALL THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGIC CHAPTER OF OUR HISTORY. UNQUOTE.
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